

KIDERLEN-WACHTER, THE MAN OF
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destroyed the Algeciras Act and created a new situation. That Act merely authorized the organization of a police force in certain open ports. It was the duty of the German Government to protect the lives and properties of their subjects in the south where no police forces existed. They were ready to co-operate with the French and Spanish Governments in the difficult search for a definite solution of the Morocco question. The assistance of the British Government would be gladly welcomed. Schoen's words in Paris were slightly different. The situation in Morocco, he declared, necessitated a prompt conversation. It was useless to appeal to the Algeciras Act, which had been too often infringed to possess authority. German opinion was very sensitive about Morocco, and one of the main objects of the despatch of the vessel was to calm it. This precautionary measure should not be allowed to affect the relations of the two Governments, and the Press should not be allowed to misrepresent it. A *communiqué* in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* completed the official statement of the German case. After announcing the despatch of the *Panther* to Agadir in response to the request of German firms interested in south Morocco it added : " The Moroccan notables in the-district have been informed that the appearance of a German warship does not convey any unfriendly intention either towards Morocco or its inhabitants." Kiderlen explained his attitude to Baron Beyens, the Belgian Minister at Berlin. " If France had continued to advance with calculated slowness, we should have had to submit to her usurpations. One day she would have invoked the hostility of a village which constituted a strategic point to occupy it militarily; another time she would have made a pretext of the uncertainty of the boundaries to

cross them.
It would have been the invasion of the drop of
oil. I thanked
heaven/* he added with his malicious little
laugh, "when I
learned of the march on Fez, for it restored our
liberty of
action. Yet we did not wish to act without
making a last
attempt at an understanding. At Kissingen I
spoke of a com-
pensation due to Germany. We consented to
abandon
Morocco in return for territory in Africa. This
friendly dis-
cussion remaining without result we sent the
Panther" The
concluding sentence was thoroughly dishonest,
for he gave
the French Government no time to frame a
reply.
The arrival of a German gunboat at a closed
port electrified
Paris and London. De Selves, Foreign Minister
in the newly-